

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

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R 242233Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, JM, CU

SUBJECT: ALLEGED US STAND ON JAMAICA-CUBA TRADE

REF: GEORGETOWN 106, KINGSTON 258, 265

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR STATE DEPT NOON
PRESS BRIEFING FOR USE ON "IF ASKED ONLY" BASIS.

Q. HAS THE US THREATENED JAMAICA WITH RETALIATION IF IT
TRADES WITH CUBA?

SUGGESTED REPLY: ALONG WITH THE 1964 OAS RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF TRADE WITH CUBA, THERE ARE
PROVISIONS IN THE US LEGISLATION CALLING FOR THE TERMI-
NATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IF
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A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TRADES WITH CUBA OR THERE IS TRADE

IN STRATEGIC ITEMS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE LIMITED EXCHANGES BETWEEN CUBA AND JAMAICA HAVE NOT COME

WITHIN THE TERMS OF THIS LEGISLATION. THERE HAS BEEN NO THREAT BY THE UNITED STATES TO RETALIATE IF JAMAICA TRADES WITH CUBA.

Q. HAS THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTED ANY THREAT BY THE US GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THIS TRADE?

SUGGESTED REPLY: NO. AND NO THREAT HAS BEEN MADE.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. AID PROGRAM TO JAMAICA?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THE PROPOSED AID PROGRAM FOR FY-74 IS: DOLS. 7.5 MILLION LOAN FOR EDUCATION; DOLS ONE MILLION GRANT AID, WHICH INCLUDES SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING, NARCOTICS CONTROL AND TAX ADMINISTRATION; DOLS. 1.2 MILLION PL 480 TITLE II FOODSTUFFS (WHICH WAS TERMINATED IN DECEMBER 1973 AS PLANNED); DOLS. 0.8 MILLION PL 480 TITLE I FOODSTUFFS. ADDITIONALLY, THE USG HAS AUTHORIZED A DOLS. 10 MILLION HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEE OF A LOAN TO THE JAMAICA MORTGAGE BANK.

ADVISORY: THE ALLEGATION OF A U.S. THREAT AROSE FROM PAGE ONE REPORTING IN THE KINGSTON, JAMAICA GLEANER ON THE RETURN OF A JAMAICAN TRADE MISSION TO CUBA ALONGSIDE AN ARTICLE OUTLINING U.S. LEGISLATION ON TRADE WITH CUBA.

U.S. LEGISLATION, MORE SPECIFICALLY, CALLS FOR THE TERMINATION OF SOME OR ALL ASSISTANCE IF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TRADES WITH CUBA, PARTICULARLY IN STRATEGIC ITEMS, OR IF ITS SHIPS OR PLANES CARRY GOODS TO OR FROM CUBA.

2. THERE WAS NO PRESS INQUIRY AT THE NOON BRIEFING.

3. FOREGOING PROVIDED FOR POSTS' INFORMATION AND MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE DRAWN UPON AS NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES. MATTER SHOULD BE HANDLED IN LOW KEY TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER PUBLICITY. KISSINGER

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